UNITED NATIONS

DP

Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1993/SR.16
2 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 7 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

CONTENTS

Annual report of the Administrator for 1992 and programme-level activities

(a) Environment and development

(c) Women in development

(d) Regional economic integration

(e) Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations

(f) Management Development Programme

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5)

(a) ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (DP/1993/11)

(c) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (DP/1993/13)

(d) REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (DP/1993/14)

(e) NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS (DP/1993/15)

(f) MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DP/1993/16)

1. Mrs. DOWDESWELL (Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme) said that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had become the touchstone of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). By entering into commitments under Agenda 21 and signing the new legal instruments on bio-diversity and climate change, Governments had given political legitimacy to the concept of sustainable development. For its part, UNCED had set in motion a process of inclusiveness, transparency and consensus-building.

2. Of all the organizations in the United Nations system, UNDP and UNEP were the two most capable of synergy in their work on behalf of the environment. At the recent meeting of the UNEP Governing Council, priority-setting had been the main activity. The Group of 77 and China had presented a paper which stressed the need for change, while the European Community had cautioned the Council not to abandon those elements which were responsible for its past successes.

3. For UNEP, there were two fundamental points of reference for that process of change. The first was that sustainable development required the integration of environmental and developmental concerns. While UNEP had some expertise in the environmental component, there was need for the technical knowledge and skills associated with development. The Programme's second point of reference were the ecological ground rules for sustainability based on science, social consensus and public policy.

4. In keeping with Agenda 21, UNEP had decided that one of its priorities should be capacity-building, an area in which it had not had a coherent approach in the past. It proposed to take action to establish environmental machinery, prepare and enforce laws, compile and disseminate information, train human resources in technical disciplines, and promote greater involvement by countries. Capacity-building also required cooperation with other agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and regional banks. For UNEP, the test of the relevance of its activities was the degree to which they contributed to capacity-building.

(Mrs. Dowdeswell)

5. The second priority of UNEP was to catalyse responses to environmental problems. UNEP had long been bringing Governments together on environmental issues and, under Agenda 21, it had been mandated to play a leading role in international environmental law, and particularly in ensuring better implementation of existing agreements. Her agency had made a particularly valuable contribution to the elaboration of international marine instruments, including instruments on land-based sources of marine pollution. The link between resource scarcity and international security was very clear and in areas such as the management of international freshwater resources international regulation was necessary in order to limit conflicts before they spun out of control. While much more could be done to shape international laws in the field of the environment, UNEP believed that emphasis should be placed on implementation rather than further regulation.

6. A third priority was for UNEP to monitor continuously the state of the Earth and to use the data thus compiled as a tool for the management of its natural resources. The Programme had the capacity to make the necessary linkages between issues such as ozone-layer depletion and agriculture and to serve as the focal point for an early warning system on the ozone layer, bio-diversity and toxic waste. Its Earthwatch system, however, needed to be strengthened. Indeed, UNEP needed to change its way of doing certain things and must work in partnerships at all levels in order to avoid the duplication of services and to move beyond the separate fiefdoms that had so hampered progress in the past.

7. There was, unfortunately, a large gap between development and environmental issues. The tools of international decision-making ignored the environment and failed to ascribe value to the cost/benefit element for other generations. UNEP wished to join with UNDP in helping to close that gap. It supported a number of the projects which UNDP had on the table and would seek to ensure complementarity between its own projects in capacity-building and those of UNDP. Existing UNDP programmes, such as the one to assist China in developing its own Agenda 21 and the fledgling programme in Africa on legislation and Government, provided opportunities for cooperation between UNDP and UNEP. Her agency, which had previously been working on global issues, had been asked by its Governing Council to be more sensitive to the immediate problems of developing countries and, in that regard, the UNDP presence in the field, via its resident representatives, would be extremely useful. UNDP had also provided for 41 national officers dedicated exclusively to environment matters. Their deployment would provide a link with UNEP and serve as a useful vehicle for adding an economic perspective to the agenda for sustainable development. Cooperation between UNEP and Habitat, particularly in promoting the concept of sustainable cities, provided another example of the synergy which could be developed between two agencies.

8. The experience of UNEP had shown that the most effective cooperation was often the least structured. Despite the limited formal links between UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), for example, the two agencies had cooperated very successfully, largely because they were both more interested in results rather than in particular activities.

(Mrs. Dowdeswell)

9. The new focus of the Programme was on decentralization. Its staff would in future be judged not by how much funding they attracted but by the extent to which they delivered results using available resources. In that connection, cooperation with UNDP was one such available resource. Officers would be given the tools and allowed to do their jobs. UNDP and UNEP, in her view, could achieve a lot more together than they could apart.

10. Miss LØJ (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the optimism that had characterized the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council following the collapse of the then global power structures and ideological rivalries was now tempered by the sense of realism which informed the debate at the current session.

11. The changing world, the new challenges ahead, and a world economy in distress made it more important than ever for the Council to bring forward the discussions on the future role of UNDP. The developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, which were the principal recipients of UNDP assistance, should be closely involved in those discussions. The Community welcomed the fact that reflections on that question had already begun both within the organization and among member countries. An important basis for those reflections had already been provided in General Assembly resolution 47/199, which the Community fully supported.

12. The discussions must also cover the comprehensive and substantive reforms of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, on which the Community hoped that agreement would be reached in the very near future. The reforms would provide the framework for an overall strengthening of the operational activities of the United Nations for the benefit of developing countries and would more clearly define the respective roles of the different agencies of the United Nations system, including UNDP. The overall objective was more effective governance, which was a prerequisite for establishing the confidence needed to attract sufficient resources.

13. Some of the important instruments for shaping the new role of UNDP had already been put into place, including the priority themes, national execution, capacity-building, the programme approach and the successor arrangements for agency support costs. The process must still be taken a decisive step further, however, and seek to respond to the basic question of what UNDP was best at, and what should be the particular profile that distinguished it from other United Nations organizations.

14. During the preparations for the fifth programming cycle, it became evident that, in order to ensure greater impact, UNDP needed to focus its activities. That process of programme focusing and concentration had been facilitated by the identification of capacity-building as the overall objective of UNDP activities and the introduction of the programme approach. The country programmes presented to the Council had demonstrated that effect. Based on the experience gained from the country programming exercises for the fifth cycle, however, the question must be asked whether the themes chosen were still too broadly defined and whether the activities of UNDP were spread too thinly over too many areas.

(Miss Løj, Observer, Denmark)

15. UNDP enjoyed certain functional and substantive comparative advantages. The functional comparative advantages were the result of its 40 years of experience in designing and delivering technical assistance, its well-established relationships with governments and with multilateral and bilateral organizations, and its extensive field network. That structure should be used when shaping the substantive comparative advantages of UNDP and its future role. The four multisectoral and multidisciplinary themes mentioned in the report of the Administrator should therefore be regarded as examples and as a point of departure for further discussion.

16. One of the potential roles of UNDP was to assist local, national and regional capacity-building in the field of environment and development. The possibility of attracting additional resources for that purpose had been widely recognized. In that connection, the functional comparative advantages of UNDP could be effectively utilized and capacity-building for sustainable development could therefore be considered as one of the areas in which UNDP could develop its substantive comparative advantages.

17. The Capacity 21 initiative launched by UNDP in keeping with the recommendations of UNCED had taken off to a slow start due, inter alia, to insufficient consultations with member countries. Member countries had been asked to more thoroughly work out their programme proposals and to outline how Capacity 21 activities could be incorporated into existing development plans, environmental concerns considered in designing new development activities, and cooperation undertaken with other organizations in that field. UNDP had since provided answers to many of those questions and the momentum had picked up, thereby attracting the funds needed for the initiative. In order to fulfil its potential, however, Capacity 21 must help to promote sustainable development throughout the activities of UNDP.

18. A number of cross-sectoral considerations should also be integrated into all of the activities of UNDP in order to ensure sustainable development. They included not only environmental considerations, but also the promotion of popular participation in development in order to ensure that the benefits of development were extended to all sectors of the population.

19. The long-standing relationships between Governments and UNDP and the Programme's wide field representation had resulted in its increasing involvement in the electoral process in a variety of developing countries, thus placing on it greater responsibilities for the establishment of good governance and the consolidation of new democracies. Because of its political neutrality and its independence of commercial interests, UNDP was well equipped to help build national or local capacity in that field. It could also draw on its wide connections with and knowledge of relevant international institutions and United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Volunteers Programme, which had proved to be very valuable in those programmes.

20. The same functional comparative advantages had been put to use in the area of humanitarian assistance. UNDP resident representatives, acting as United Nations coordinators, had in several instances been called upon to assist in coordinating assistance in emergencies and such a function could perhaps be institutionalized. UNDP could also play an important role in the area of

(Miss Løj, Observer, Denmark)

rehabilitation. The execution of humanitarian or emergency assistance, however, was better left to those organizations that were equipped to deal with such situations.

21. It might therefore be concluded that capacity-building in relation to good governance and the democratic process could be considered part of the substantive comparative advantages of UNDP. Humanitarian and emergency assistance, however, should be based only on the role of UNDP as the coordinator of United Nations activities in the field.

22. Turning to the Human Development Report and the concept of sustainable development which had been developed from that work, she observed that the Report allowed UNDP to adopt a truly multisectoral approach. It joined together the many different experiences and past activities of the Programme and pointed towards the future profile of UNDP. To ensure the credibility of that undertaking, however, it was essential to protect the independence of the Human Development Report team and to ensure that correlations which the team found important to investigate, such as the relationship between human freedom and development, could be pursued.

23. In 1992 and 1993, the Governing Council had welcomed a number of newly independent States as members of UNDP with recipient status. Although it had been recognized that UNDP had a role to play in those new member States, it had also been emphasized that the Programme should further elaborate on its planned activities in the region. The Community therefore regretted that UNDP had chosen to interpret the relevant Governing Council decision on the establishment of offices in the region in a way that could not be justified and it hoped that future decisions of the Council would be implemented in an open and transparent manner in accordance with their letter and spirit.

24. On the future role of UNDP, the Community believed that the activities chosen to shape that future should share a common concept of sustainable human development. The achievement of that goal, however, depended on how national and local policies were generated and implemented, on good governance and on respect for human rights. UNDP was already involved in capacity-building as it related to governance and in facilitating the evolution of democratic processes. The Community saw that kind of capacity-building as one of the major functions of UNDP in the years ahead.

25. She concluded by expressing the Community's sincere appreciation to the outgoing Administrator of UNDP, Mr. William Draper III, for his many years of dedicated service to UNDP at a time when the Programme had had to respond to profound changes taking place in the world.

26. Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) said that Administrator Draper's departure from UNDP was clearly a tremendous loss. Under Mr. Draper's tenure, the relationship between UNDP and the Japanese Government had developed steadily, with Japan's voluntary contributions to the core fund increasing by an average of 5.8 per cent per year since 1983.

27. UNDP found itself in a paradoxical position. While voluntary contributions to UNDP were in decline as a result of the budgetary difficulties of some donor

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

nations, there was pressure on the Programme to expand and diversify its activities and employ a broader range of service delivery methods. An additional challenge was the restructuring process within the Organization. It was unclear what the implications of restructuring would be, particularly in the case of the relocation of the Office for Project Services (OPS) to the Secretariat. He hoped that UNDP would weather that period of uncertainty, since UNDP had long been the central funding organ for the entire range of the Organization's technical cooperation activities.

28. He shared the view of many members that the ultimate purpose of development was not to raise overall economic growth rates but to strengthen and enhance the national capacity of developing countries through sustainable human development. National execution of development programmes, together with limited intervention by an assisting agency, should be encouraged as well as a decentralized programme approach. The people of a country and their health, welfare and education were the factors which determined the success of development efforts.

29. In that connection, he praised the Human Development Report for its practical recommendations concerning implementation of UNDP technical assistance programmes. He noted with approval that the Human Freedom Index had been removed from the Report, since, as Japan had pointed out at the previous session of the Governing Council, it was inappropriate and beyond the mandate of UNDP to reduce human freedom to a set of statistics. With respect to UNDP involvement in elections sponsored by the United Nations, as in Cambodia, Japan was of the view that other agencies were better equipped to take on that particular responsibility, although he did pay tribute to the United Nations volunteers, including a Japanese national, who had lost their lives in the effort to restore democracy in that country. He also welcomed the Report's emphasis on preventive measures for development to address the implications of such factors as poverty, narcotics and AIDS. Lastly, he had some concerns regarding statements in the Report concerning the links between development aid and democracy or human rights, in particular, on the question of whether it would be appropriate for States to continue to provide assistance to NGOs. For example, in some instances direct assistance to NGOs could be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of a recipient State. His Government had made it clear that it would take into account the state of human rights and democracy in a country in formulating and implementing official bilateral development assistance, although it would not necessarily withdraw or reduce assistance to a repressive Government on an automatic basis. Japan believed that assistance programmes should be implemented so as to encourage a recipient Government to move in the direction of greater democracy and respect for human rights.

30. Japan recognized that a balance must be struck between the imperatives of human development and the environment in order to achieve sustainable development. In that context, his delegation welcomed the initiatives taken by UNDP to follow up on the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and General Assembly resolution 47/191 on institutional arrangements with respect to UNCED. As an organization having working relationships with Governments and NGOs, UNDP enjoyed a comparative advantage in formulating and implementing programmes in that field. The launching of Capacity 21 was an example of UNDP's activities with respect to

(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

follow-up to UNCED, and Japan had made a contribution of $10 million to the pilot phase of the initiative. Through programmes such as Capacity 21 and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Japan believed UNDP would continue to play a leading role in promoting sustainable development.

31. Japan appreciated the role UNDP had been playing in promoting sustainable development in Africa. He noted with appreciation the valuable support provided by the Office of Project Services (OPS) as the executing agency in the implementation of the non-project grant assistance which Japan had extended to more than 20 countries. He was also proud to note that an international conference on development in Africa would be held in Tokyo in 1993. His delegation firmly believed that UNDP would contribute substantially to the success of the conference.

32. Assistance to the Palestinian people was another area in which UNDP had a leading role. Japan had high regard for the efforts of UNDP headquarters and its Jerusalem office to coordinate assistance activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He announced that Japan had pledged up to $3 million for emergency aid to those areas, a large portion of which was specifically earmarked to remedy environmental damage.

33. The efforts of UNDP to foster private enterprises and facilitate privatization figured prominently in the Administrator's report. He reiterated his delegation's support for the allocation of country indicative planning figures (IPFs) to the Commonwealth of Independent States in support of capacity-building activities for the transition to a market-oriented economy.

34. Japan also welcomed the initiatives of UNDP in providing relief and rehabilitation for international migrants and internally displaced persons, and he encouraged the Programme to continue its efforts in the combat against HIV/AIDS and to control the traffic in illegal narcotics.

35. With respect to the decision to relocate the Office for Projects Services (OPS) from UNDP to the Secretariat, he said that, while his Government basically supported initiatives to streamline the structure of the Organization and reduce costs, he nevertheless believed that restructuring should never conflict with the goals of reform. Reform without restructuring was just a goal, while restructuring without reform produced only confusion and disorder. Whether or not OPS would be able to continue to play an important role would depend on its ability to receive budgetary support from UNDP rather than from the regular budget of the Organization. He was of the opinion that OPS activities should continue to be overseen by the UNDP Governing Council.

36. His Government welcomed the efforts of the UNDP Administrator to rationalize the management and organizational structure of the programme by reducing the number of senior-level posts and he encouraged the Secretariat to continue such efforts in the future. He also noted that Japan itself was going through a period of restructuring as a result of severe budgetary difficulties. He hoped that the process would result in closer and more effective cooperation between the field activities of UNDP and those of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

37. Mr. BENNET (United States of America) said that Administrator Draper had continued the distinguished tradition of UNDP in turning development dreams into reality. Under his direction UNDP had developed innovations, including the influential Human Development Report, collaborative projects with NGOs and the private sector, women's programmes, human capacity-building and support for democracy. In addition, UNDP field operations were becoming an increasingly prominent feature of the landscape in many areas of the world. Lastly, Administrator Draper had set a new standard for performance among staff members and his management training programmes had yielded clear results.

38. The change of UNDP administration coincided with the enormous transformations that were occurring in the world at large. The world community was turning increasingly to the Organization to find solutions to the three critical problems of the 1990s and beyond: the creation of new frameworks for international peace and security; effective responses to natural and man-made humanitarian crises; and the promotion of effective development cooperation. Notwithstanding the demands made on the Organization as a result of those factors, the budgets of member States would be taxed so severely in the short term that development flows would probably continue to decline. For its part, the United States was committed to mitigating the impact of that decline by identifying economies to be achieved in the use of existing resources. In that connection, he commended UNDP for taking a cooperative and constructive approach in working together with the Department of Humanitarian Assistance (DHA) during a number of humanitarian emergencies.

39. Contemporary challenges to development were occurring against the background of some significant successes. In that connection, he drew attention to, inter alia, the economic transformations in Asia since the 1970s, the achievement of net food surpluses in south-west Asia, industrial growth in the South, and economic rejuvenation in Latin America. While southern Africa had experienced some progress, the rest of the continent still lagged behind other regions; therefore, UNDP should retain a priority focus on Africa in addressing problems such as population growth, the alleviation of poverty and sustainable development.

40. Recent political and economic changes gave the world a new opportunity to reach a consensus concerning representative democracy, individual human rights and market-based economic systems. At the same time, however, the critical needs of people in Somalia, the Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the newly independent States were competing for resources. The United States believed that UNDP had the potential capacity to mobilize and consolidate the resources of a fragmented United Nations system. UNDP needed to assume a coordinating role for all United Nations agencies in support of social and economic development. The Council should envisage coalitions for sustainable development organized by UNDP among recipient and donor Governments, NGOs, and the Organizations's field apparatus. Such coalitions would have common priorities and would be better able to direct resources to maximum effect.

41. In a period of changing leadership for UNDP and restructuring in the Secretariat, the Governing Council must work constructively to preserve UNDP's strongest assets: its mandate for system-wide coordination, its operational experience; and its comprehensive field network. Preserving those elements of

(Mr. Bennet, United States)

the Programme would give the new management flexibility in reshaping and focusing UNDP activities to reconcile short-term needs and long-term goals. In that context, support cost arrangements represented a step in the direction of greater interagency cooperation in national execution. Maintaining UNDP as an effective, strong, field-based institution would ensure that the United Nations development system would be able to meet the new challenges it would face in the future. Any change in the site of UNDP's headquarters would seriously impair efficient operation of the Programme.

42. He welcomed the prudent budget planning and staff restructuring recommended by the Administrator. The proposed changes would create a wider array of options for existing and future programmes alike. Member States recognized that funding for UNDP would likely be constrained for the immediate future as a result of the competing demands for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, peace-making and other activities.

43. Resource flows from the United Nations in the form of technical cooperation grants were an important complement to bilateral assistance and helped countries create policy environments that promoted domestic private investment. The Governing Council needed to build upon UNDP's efforts in the area of technical cooperation and strengthen other aspects of the development partnership through active involvement of NGOs in the UNDP programme-planning process.

44. Mr. MACHIN (United Kingdom) said he supported the comments made by Denmark on behalf of the European Community and its member States. He too was saddened by the prospect of Administrator Draper's departure and he paid tribute to him.

45. Turning to the report of the Administrator, he said that under Administrator Draper, most of the prerequisites to an effective future role for UNDP had been met. For example, the Programme's focus on sustainable human development, capacity-building and institution-building in recipient countries had transformed the way the world looked upon the development process.

46. Another of Mr. Draper's initiatives, the Human Development Report, had made important contributions to many aspects of the development debate. For their part, officials in the United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration frequently consulted the Report. He appreciated the emphasis in the Report on people-based solutions to development problems as opposed State-based ones.

47. Administrator Draper should also be congratulated for his innovative and bold actions to streamline UNDP's administrative budget. Particularly noteworthy in that regard were the reductions he had achieved for the 1994-1995 period as well as the revamped staff appraisal system.

48. With regard to the future he agreed that UNDP's activities should respond to the national plans and priorities of recipient Governments. One obvious priority in that regard was sustainable development. UNDP had a specific mandate following the International Conference on Environment and Development to implement UNCED decisions with respect to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Capacity 21, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and other areas. Most importantly, UNDP must integrate the principles of

(Mr. Machin, United Kingdom)

sustainable development into all of its activities. While the Programme was aware of its needs in that regard, achieving the goal of full integration of sustainable development principles would be a difficult task. That task was the Council's major challenge in the years ahead.

49. The transition of countries to democracy and good governance was also of particular importance to his Government and it fully supported the involvement of UNDP in that area through its close relationship and high level of trust with so many developing countries.

50. More attention should be devoted to the relief to development continuum. He therefore welcomed the recent agreement on cooperation between the Department for Humanitarian Assistance and UNDP in the area of humanitarian assistance. On the strength of its wide field network, there was a real role for UNDP in making developing countries more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and in helping to ease the transition from humanitarian relief to genuine longer-term development.

51. He paid tribute to the United Nations volunteers for their increasingly important role in the area of disaster relief as well as in their traditional grass-roots activities.

52. The major challenge facing UNDP on the eve of the twenty-first century was how to reprioritize its activities so as to ensure that its scarce resources would be spent wisely for the Programme to have an impact in those areas where it had a strong capability.

53. UNDP must improve its reporting to the Council on the true impact and output of its work so that performance could be seen and measured against inputs, and in that regard his delegation welcomed the references to feedback in the Administrator's report. The Council must be more disciplined in giving guidance based on the Programme's actual performance in the field.

54. Mr. ALOISI DE LARDEREL (Italy) said that within the framework of United Nations reform UNDP should improve its role as a coordinator of activities and a source of new concepts for development policies. While the Programme's role as the central funding body for technical cooperation might be modified over time, it should not detract from its role as the focus of development aid within the United Nations system.

55. His delegation fully agreed with the Administrator's reasons as to why the Programme's role should be maintained and strengthened. In that connection, others could be added: first, the inter-disciplinary approach promoted by the Secretary-General predicated and implied a coordinating role by a body such as UNDP; secondly, as a result of the growing gap between financial resources available for development assistance and the increasing need to support integrated international action, the need for international coordination of aid within the framework of technical assistance institutions (such as UNDP) or financial institutions (such as the World Bank) was becoming more urgent; and thirdly, UNDP was the only organization which successfully blended economic

(Mr. Aloisi de Larderel, Italy)

development, humanitarian assistance and protection for human rights with the aim of achieving human and sustainable development.

56. Although the current budget of Italian external aid had been reduced, the Government's plan to cooperate with international organizations and financial institutions and to provide co-financing in general should allow it to continue its strong support of UNDP.

57. Top priority should be given by the international community to assistance to Africa and it should be reflected in the Programme's activities in the coming years. Apart from financial resources, it was essential to ensure the full participation of local governments and communities and to devise an approach specifically suited to the problems of the region. The Italian aid programme already gave a very high priority to Africa particularly the continent's least developed countries.

58. As his country was convinced of the links between human development and democracy and political stability, it had actively supported the Programme's initiatives to promote the electoral process in many countries. Peace-keeping was equally important in that context.

59. His delegation fully supported the human development approach devised by UNDP which, apart from its merits of defining the objectives of aid policy, had also proved to be an asset in the essential task that Governments faced in mobilizing public opinion and political support for development aid. His Government planned to give particular attention to the development of local entrepreneurial capacity and to private sector activities both as an engine for growth and an incentive for democratic stability. In that regard Italy was prepared to support the Programme's initiatives.

60. Along with development assistance there was a concomitant need for more open international markets even if the latter goal was more difficult to achieve in a time of global recession and sluggish growth in international trade. Equally important were consistently good standards in political and economic governance in assisted countries. In view of the sensitivity of those matters, a policy dialogue conducted by a neutral agency such as UNDP could make an invaluable contribution.

61. His delegation hoped that the final decisions on the future role and structure of UNDP would result in strengthening the United Nations operations in favour of developing countries. Finally, he paid tribute to Mr. Draper for his intelligent and dedicated stewardship of UNDP.

62. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) said that his delegation hoped that the reduction in the level of financing of the indicative planning figures for the cycle was only a temporary difficulty which would soon be overcome, that there would not be another financial crisis like that of the third cycle and that the compromise reached after two years of arduous consultations and negotiations on the 8 per cent annual growth rate for total voluntary contributions for the current IPF cycle would hold firm.

(Mr. Popescu, Romania)

63. Despite its economic and social difficulties together with the subsequent adverse impact on social life as a whole, Romania was determined to pursue the process of economic reform. The new government was striving to consolidate the democratic process while maintaining a rational level of social spending. It was focusing, in that regard, on measures to stop the decline in production during the second half of 1993 by harmonizing macroeconomic stabilization with the structural adjustment policy.

64. However, domestic policy reforms would not be sufficient to achieve recovery and sustain transition to an open market economy. In line with the Bucharest UNDP round table, direct international financial and technical assistance was essential over the next few years. In that regard, the signing of an agreement of association covering the European Community, its member States and Romania, together with the recent meeting of the Group of 24 and of the World Bank consultative group for Romania, confirmed such international assistance for his country.

65. UNDP had continued to cooperate with and assist his Government and had, under the Fifth IPF Country Programme for Romania, selected three major areas of concentration for assistance: strengthening the Government's privatization programme, human resources development and environmental protection.

66. His country had incurred severe economic and financial losses as a result of the implementation of United nations Security Council sanctions applied against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On that subject, UNDP might consider adopting a special assistance programmes for the rehabilitation of the economic sectors in countries affected by the sanctions. The Administrator could, for instance establish a trust fund for that specific purpose in line with regulation 5.1 of the financial regulations of UNDP.

67. The Romanian Government would continue to spend allocated funds in the most efficient manner. Despite its economic and financial difficulties, his Government had increased its voluntary contribution by 60 per cent in 1992 and 200 per cent in 1993. As a result of the sharp decline in its per capita gross national product, Romania was entitled to a waiver of 50 per cent instead of 20 per cent with respect to local office costs.

68. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru) underscored the great contribution being made by UNDP to his country's development with the support of donor countries. In addition to technical cooperation, the Programme was providing consultation services for implementing specific projects and advising the State in the field of public management in order to make its institutional apparatus more efficient. UNDP was also providing support for privatizing public enterprises, promoting employment and social development, renewing the public sector and establishing a policy to protect the environment and natural resources. In that context, his Government attached particular importance to the Programme's impartiality and autonomy, which should always be maintained.

69. Peru's economic stabilization programme had been carried out on the basis of its own efforts and had required great sacrifice on the part of the Peruvian people. Having overcome its financing difficulties, his country was now

(Mr. Guillen, Peru)

receiving substantial loans from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Additional resources were still necessary in order to alleviate Peru's critical situation, which was well known to a number of donor countries. There were two areas of mutual interest for Peru and donor countries, where UNDP participation could be crucial: environmental protection and population. His country was particularly interested in the system of special resource programmes and new funding areas, such as the environment. In view of the Programme's effective cooperation with Peru and its immense comparative advantage throughout the region, he hoped that those efforts would not be affected by reductions in financial resources, which would penalize the countries where they were put to best use.

70. Mrs. AL-AWADHI (Kuwait) expressed appreciation for the annual report of the Administrator for 1992 and programme level activities. It was important for UNDP to implement the tasks entrusted to it by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in particular with regard to Capacity 21, the Global Environment Facility, the Montreal Protocol and desiccation and desertification control. He stressed the need for close cooperation and effective coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the avoidance of duplication. In order to carry out its expanded mandate, UNDP should seek additional sources of funding from all possible quarters.

71. The environmental catastrophe arising from the burning by the Iraqi aggressors of over 700 oil wells in Kuwait would require coordinated international measures to prevent environmental degradation and to rehabilitate the environment. Efforts should be continued on the survey and detailed assessment of the damage and on follow-up on studies of the current and future impact of environmental pollution on human health, as well as on combating land pollution from oil and rehabilitating the soil. Studies should be completed on the damage to and the rehabilitation of the sea environment.

72. With respect to regional economic integration, there should be support for the policy adopted since the fourth programming cycle of designing projects and allocating funds at the subregional and semiregional levels. He commended UNDP for its support of regional cooperation in the Arab region through the provision of technical assistance to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the form of short technical consultancies, and to the League of Arab States, in particular with respect to the Arab Regional Information System Network (ARIS-NET). He expressed appreciation for the technical support provided to develop and expand trade between the Arab countries, which was still less than 8 per cent of their total trade.

73. He expressed his appreciation for UNDP activities concerning the role of women in development (WID). As a result, most country programmes had expressed some commitment to WID issues. UNDP had entrusted important tasks in WID to the resident representatives and the Administrator. There had also been an essential development in the cooperation between UNDP and the specialized agencies of the role of women in development in numerous joint projects and programmes, including the collection of information and statistics on women, vocational training, education, health care and social welfare, as well as

(Mrs. Al-Awadhi, Kuwait)

preparations for the World Conference on Women to be held in China in 1995. All support should be given to UNDP field offices for their WID activities in close collaboration with the public and private agencies in each country. Attention should also be paid to the preparations for the 1995 World Conference on Women, and the national bodies concerned should be informed of all the developments and arrangements being made in preparation for that conference in order to ensure its success.

74. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's appreciation for the valuable efforts of Mr. William Draper as Administrator of UNDP at a time of scarce financial resources and administrative difficulties within the United Nations. He drew particular attention to the personal and official interest the Administrator had taken in women's affairs and the role of women in development, as a result of which a number of well-qualified women had been able to occupy high-level posts in UNDP. He wished him every success in his future activities regarding international development.

75. Mr. EBRAHIM AL DOSARI (Observer for Bahrain) commended the efforts of UNDP to promote sustainable development through its social, economic and environmental activities. UNDP programmes should aim to achieve the objectives of Capacity 21 by taking into account the objective circumstances of developing countries to enable them to benefit from available resources in that field. The Programme should give priority to solving the environmental problems of developing countries and, in particular, should deal with the pollution and environmental damage caused by the 1991 Gulf war. He hoped that UNDP would provide further support and assistance to developing countries in general and to the Gulf countries in particular.

76. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland) said that together with the other Nordic countries, Finland had actively participated in the negotiations on reforming the United Nations system, including operational activities for development. Once the emerging consensus was formally approved by the General Assembly, UNDP should take the necessary steps in that regard. The Programme's functions must be maintained, but it should be flexible and prepared for change. Its role should be assessed within the context of other international agencies and at the level of the United Nations system. The cross-sectoral nature of activities supported by UNDP was one of the Programme's most important comparative advantages. To ensure impact and true complementarity, UNDP must focus its activities and funding on areas where its services were most needed and where there were few alternatives. Consideration should be given to focusing the Programme's assistance solely on the least or less developed countries, whose capacity for improving human resources and for sustainable development was very limited.

77. There was no contradiction in concentrating UNDP development activities in the least developed countries and at the same time maintaining a presence in other countries for specific services provided to the United Nations system and reimbursed by the system in full. The highly valued assistance provided by UNDP through the Resident Coordinator and its field offices would be recognized in such an arrangement. Since coordination should be the responsibility of the host country, the first priority in UNDP external support ought to be capacity-building of national and local coordination mechanisms. The reform of

(Mr. Kääriä, Finland)

the financing mechanisms for operational activities for development would ensure a more predictable and stable financial basis for UNDP. It was a question of rightly chosen assistance, innovative solutions to difficult situations and utilization of existing human capacity. Lastly, the Human Development Reports were essential for dealing with various development questions and problems. He hoped that the issues of international empowerment and empowerment of individuals as set forth in the Reports would continue to have an impact on the Programme's future work.

78. Mr. WRIGHT (Canada) said that within the context of the new challenges and constraints facing the United Nations system, there was a need to clarify the future role of the Programme and its place in that system. UNDP was in a position to provide intellectual leadership in key areas of development and chart directions for the future. People-centred development was essential and more needed to be invested in social capital so that people could lead productive lives and realize their potential. One of the Programme's contributions had been its work with non-governmental and grass-root organizations and its recognition of their efforts in national capacity-building. He was particularly struck by efforts, primarily in Africa, to foster greater three-way cooperation among Governments, non-governmental organizations and UNDP. Encouraging non-governmental organizations to become partners in development would enhance the effectiveness of development efforts.

79. The Programme's efforts since 1990 to implement its women-in-development mandate were commendable. Such work should be expanded to include ministries as well as labour and human rights organizations and to address legal rights issues as they related differently to men and women. Encouraging that support could be catalytic and bring about long-term changes leading to gender equity. Canada viewed that as a societal, economic and political issue, not just a women's issue. His delegation expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Administrator to take a more gender-based approach to programming, support UNIFEM and bring more women into the professional ranks of UNDP. Canada would be monitoring closely the efforts of his successor to promote gender-sensitive policies and improve the ratio of women in senior ranks. Gender-sensitivity training was vital and UNDP should continue to take the lead in providing such training both in its programming and within the organization itself.

80. In terms of the environment, UNDP might be trying to pursue too ambitious an approach in its follow-up to UNCED and was not taking the role of other players sufficiently into account. The key in that area was coordination. Developing countries could not afford to have the Programme use its limited resources to substitute for activities more appropriately funded by the Global Environment Facility, bilateral donors or other sources. UNDP could work with Governments to help ensure that all the initiatives, funds and instruments resulting from the UNCED process meshed together at the national level to support the same global objectives. The Programme's comparative advantage could be put to best use in the role of a facilitator. Within UNDP itself, support for capacity-building for sustainable development should be part of regular country programmes.

(Mr. Wright, Canada)

81. The Programme's comparative advantages were its widespread in-country presence, relative neutrality and the trust that it inspired in the many countries where it operated. Its overall role had both an intellectual and an operational side. To play an effective intellectual role, the Programme should view itself as a knowledge-based or information-based organization and acquire both the technology and trained human capacity to make the most of it. On the operational side, the Programme could make a key contribution by helping Governments and societies plan for sustainable development, combining environmental sustainability with economic, political, cultural and social sustainability. Such national frameworks provided the basis for effective integration of local and external resources.

82. Mr. DE GROOT (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that the capacity for sustainable development in industry had three components: human resources, institutions and an enabling environment. UNIDO had the expertise, experience and political mandate for sustainable industrial development and capacity-building in that area. While UNIDO integrated the same sustainability concerns in all its projects and programmes, Capacity 21 would provide important complementary funding for specific capacity-building activities within those programmes.

83. In order to assist countries to develop their own national programmes and request the necessary assistance, his organization had drawn up a proposal which outlined the main thrust areas of activity for Capacity 21 in the industry sector and provided models for possible projects in those areas. UNIDO was ready to cooperate with UNDP in ensuring the success of Capacity 21 and responding to requests for assistance from Member States in that essential field.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.